



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NATURAL GAS RATES TO DROP FOR ATMOS ENERGY--NEELYVILLE DISTRICT CUSTOMERS UNDER SCHEDULED FILING

JEFFERSON CITY---To reflect estimated changes in the cost of natural gas for the upcoming summer season (April through October), Neelyville District natural gas customers of Atmos Energy Corporation will see a decrease in natural gas rates under a scheduled filing reviewed and accepted by the Missouri Public Service Commission. This rate change will take effect on April 1, 2005.

A residential customer currently pays approximately \$0.63 per Ccf (per 100 cubic feet of gas). Under this filing, the rate will drop to approximately \$0.55 per Ccf, a decrease of approximately 8 cents per Ccf. This will reduce a typical residential heating customer's bill by approximately 8% for the April through October period, when compared to rates currently in effect.

Approximately 65% to 80% of a customer's natural gas bill reflects the cost of natural gas from wholesale suppliers. **The wholesale cost of natural gas** (the cost your local natural gas company must pay to its suppliers for natural gas) **is not regulated by the Missouri Public Service Commission.** The wellhead cost of natural gas is unregulated and is primarily driven by supply, demand and the weather. The Missouri Public Service Commission does conduct an annual regulatory review to ensure that regulated gas companies make prudent decisions in securing natural gas supplies for their customers.

Atmos Energy Corporation serves approximately 125 natural gas customers in the Missouri counties of Ripley and Butler.